

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

1) 01 Mar 2020.....	Romans 01a.....	Compelled
2) 08 Mar.....	Romans 01b.....	Guilty
3) 15 Mar.....	Romans 02.....	Insufficient
4) 22 Mar.....	Romans 03-04.....	Justified
5) 29 Mar.....	Romans 05.....	At Peace
6) 05 April.....	Romans 06-07.....	Free
7) 12 April.....	Luke 24:1-12 [EASTER].....	Raised
8) 19 April.....	Romans 08-09.....	Secured
9) 26 April.....	Romans 10.....	Saved
10) 03 May.....	Romans 11.....	Mercy
11) 10 May.....	Romans 12.....	Sacrifices
12) 17 May.....	Romans 13.....	Citizens
13) 24 May.....	Romans 14.....	Accepting
14) 31 May.....	Romans 15-16.....	Reach

ROMANS 8 INTRODUCTION

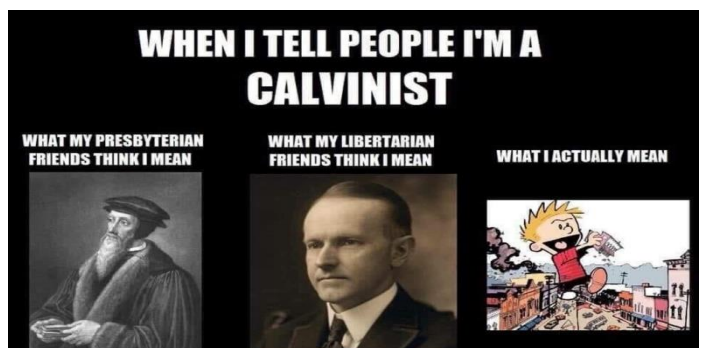
- Chapter 8 hits on 12 doctrines – Election, predestination, God’s foreknowledge, God’s calling, justification, condemnation, salvation, eternal security, spiritual adoption, joint heirs with Christ, perseverance, and prayer – all within 39 verses

Passage	Comments
Romans 8:1-8	<p>It is Impossible for Those in the Flesh to Please God</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Here’s a good indicator to know if you are saved or not – Are you concerned about what God thinks when you laugh at a coarse joke, watch a shady show, or have lustful thoughts about someone? Or are you oblivious to how God observes your thoughts, words & deeds? v3. God condemns sin in the flesh – that means there will be no sin in Heaven to worry about – SWEET! v5. Those who are truly saved focus on godly things. What are some of those “things of the Spirit”? <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer? <input type="checkbox"/> Bible Study? <input type="checkbox"/> Encouraging others? <input type="checkbox"/> Playing computer games? <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Missions?
8:9-11	<p>Believers have the Holy Spirit to Guide Them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v9. The Holy Spirit dwells within each believer v10. Our spirit (the real us) is alive unto righteousness – Our focus after being saved is now centered on God v11. Our bodies should be dead to sin, but God ‘gives life to our mortal bodies’ through the indwelling Holy Spirit – “All things become new” (2Cor 5:17) – new thoughts, new desires, new outlook – that we “may have life more abundantly” (John 10:10) – no worries, fresh hope, bright future, exciting blessings from God
8:12-17	<p>We Are Obligated to Live Right Since We Are Adopted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> vv14-16. Another indicator of being saved – being led by the Holy Spirit and receiving His testimony in our spirit. BUT HOW? Does He give us subjective feelings or objective criteria (substantial evidence), or both? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider this — The Holy Spirit provides substantial evidence we belong to God through His fruit in our lives — Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control Also consider this — Jesus would pray all night to determine God’s direction (Luke 6:12), so He was not waiting for a subjective feeling. We can get a “shiver in our liver” after praying just 2 minutes
8:18-23	<p>Pain and Sufferings Are Part of this Life by Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v18. But the Glory that awaits us has no comparison with the ‘paper-cut’ pains we might now experience
8:24-25	<p>We are Saved in Hope (Faith & Hope are Intertwined)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are positively saved, but it is unrealized – Similar to inheriting \$1M, but the money is not in the bank yet

Passage	Comments
8:26-27	<p>The Holy Spirit Involves Himself with our Prayers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We should pray always in the Spirit..... Eph 6:18; Jud 20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is not praying in tongues as some teach Praying in the Spirit means to pray in line with God’s will and word, and not for selfish reasons.....James 4:3 We are to pray intelligently Ps 5:3; 1Cor 14:15 We are to pray frequently Ps 55:17; 1Thes 5:17 Since we are not able to save ourselves, nor are we able to “add a single hour to our life,” it stands to reason we need God’s help to even pray properly “...groanings which cannot be uttered” – Our mournful prayers are heard & transmitted clearly to the Throne
8:28-30	<p>God’s Foreknowledge Predestined Us to Be Conformed, Called, Justified, and Glorified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are three (3) competing positions on this: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Calvinism (5 pt): The believer has no choice in believing (Irresistible Grace). Everything (election & predestination) is done for them by a sovereign God without the believer needing to be involved Arminianism: The invitation is open to all, God is willing to save all, God being omniscient knew who would believe, so His sovereignty predestined the elect to be conformed, called, justified, etc. Hybrid Calvinism (aka 2pt, 3pt, or 4 pointers): Salvation is not a done deal till after one believes, then they are sealed with the Holy Spirit Eph 1:13 <p>Another way to look at it: There is a predestined eternal inheritance waiting for those who accept Christ. For those who don’t want Christ, they also have a predestined destination called Hell.</p>
8:31-39	<p>The End Result of All This → Assurance of Salvation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> v32. If God did not spare His own Son from the cross, then we stand to receive everything from God – Freely v35-39. And NOTHING can unsave us – God won’t do it; Satan can’t do it; and we can’t do it either – WOW!
Food for Thought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If Calvinists are right that Christ only died for sins of the elect, why didn’t God have His elect, the apostles and disciples, physically nail Christ to the cross? If Arminianists are right that the elect can will themselves into and out of Heaven, then how can God predestine them for anything? If Calvinists are right that Christ did not die for the non-elect, then why would they need to go to Hell? Christ didn’t die for animals either, and they won’t be in hell

ROMANS 8 CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- Calvinists and Arminianist come in all flavors. In brief, not all Calvinist positions are wrong, neither are all Arminianist positions wrong. Neither will one chapter of one book resolve all the issues. It takes the whole counsel of God to sort through everything.
 - Let God be found true & every man a liarRom 3:4



ROMANS 9 INTRODUCTION

- Paul continues his argument of who can receive God's grace of eternal life and who won't — not who can't

Passage	Comments
Romans 9:1	<p>Our Conscience Tells Us What Is Right – Right?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v1. Paul invoked his conscience as bearing testimony to his true feelings, but there was a time when his conscience was 180° out of what it should have been <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul used to think he was doing God a favor by persecuting believers John 16:2 ♦ What turned Paul's (or anyone's) conscience around to be sensitive to God's leading? ♦ The word for conscience (lit. joint-knowledge) is only used in the NT. The conscience is our God-given faculty to know or discern good and evil (Gen 3:22) ♦ However, one's conscience could be weak (1Cor 8:12) or defiled (Titus 1:15) or evil (Heb 10:22); or shipwrecked (1Tim 1:19) or seared (1Tim 4:2) ♦ To be sensitive to the Lord's leading, we need to exercise our conscience in righteousness to develop a good conscience (Heb 13:18), a pure conscience (1Tim 3:9), a conscience purged from sin & dead works (Heb 9:14)
9:2,3	<p>Paul's Love for His Jewish Brethren</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul wished it was possible for him to spend eternity in Hell instead of his Jewish kinsmen <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Do we have that kind of love for our friends & family, co-workers & strangers? If we did, we would be like Paul who took time to witness to everyone.
9:6-8	<p>Stark Revelation – Not All Israel are Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This realization was a shock to the Jews that neither their Jewish lineage nor circumcision earned them entrance into Heaven • Children of God are not those from a bloodline or by works, but those who proceed from a promise of God <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Those who proceed from Isaac, the promised son of Abraham, are God's children – vessels of honor
9:9-24	<p>God has Mercy on Whom He Chooses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv11-12. Before Jacob & Esau did anything good or bad, God called them to specific rolls in life: "the older will serve the younger" [Calvinists love this passage] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Did God assign each of us with specific rolls to fulfill before we were born and did anything good or bad? • v13. God chose to love Jacob and hate Esau • v16. God will have mercy on whom he has mercy • v18. God hardens whom He desires • v21. The Potter (God) has the right to make some vessels honorable and other vessels dishonorable • v23. Some are prepared for destruction..... Prov 16:4 • v24. ...and others are 'prepared beforehand for glory'
What Does All This Mean?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do people even have a choice to serve God or not? • Why should we witness or pray or work or even die for the lost if God is going to save whom He wants? <p>This Is Where the Sovereignty of God Comes In</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God gives us the ability to choose; God commands us to witness; God commands us to pray; and, yes, to even give our lives for the lost just as His Son did • ...and God, being so sovereign, works His will through our choices, our prayers, and our blood, sweat and tears to save the unsaveable – including us!

Passage	Comments
9:25-33	<p>Gentiles Should be Grateful to Israel</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul is not finished with his line of reasoning of why many Jews missed out on the Messiah • Yes, God has mercy on whom He has mercy; and Yes, God loved Jacob and hated Esau; and Yes, God hardens whom He desires – all hard-core Bible truths • ...and yet God provides substantiating considerations for sealing the fate of the wicked <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ v32. Many Israelites willfully refused to pursue God by faith (also see Nehemiah 9:17) ♦ Heb 12:16. Esau was willfully immoral and godless ♦ Jer 19:15. God brings calamity on those who willfully harden themselves against obeying His word 1Pet 2:8 • But God leaves the door open for ALL to repent <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ John 5:40. Jesus told the Jews (those who were 'not all Israel') He was willing to give them eternal life if they were willing to come to Him on His terms. ♦ Also, recall what Abraham told the Rich Man, who was suffering in Hell and who begged Abraham to send Lazarus back to earth to warn his brothers to avoid "this place of torment." Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them." In essence, Abraham said if ANYONE wants to avoid Hell, then read and heed God's word!!!

CONCLUSION/APPLICATIONS

- When all is said and done, God gets the glory for being sovereign over everything and everyone. That includes our salvation.
 - ♦ He makes a place for those who make a place for Him in their hearts
- Yes, by God's sovereignty, He gave us the ability to choose eternal life with or without Him, and by His foreknowledge He chose us "beforehand", that is from before the foundation of the world ([Ephesians 1:4](#)) – so we should live enthusiastically for Him
- For those who end up in Hell, they can only blame themselves. God knocks on the door of everyone's heart to come & dine [Rev 3:20](#)

NEXT WEEK: Romans 10. Paul continues his argument of who can receive God's grace of eternal life and who won't (not who can't)

